

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Agriculture to which was referred House Bill No. 656  
3 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects” respectfully  
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the Senate  
5 propose to the House that the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: in Sec. 21, 10 V.S.A. § 4709, in subdivision (f)(1)(C), after  
7 “molecular tool” and before the period by striking out the words “by the U.S.  
8 Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service,  
9 Wildlife Services to be a feral swine hybrid based on results of genetic testing  
10 conducted at the National Wildlife Research Center”

11 And in subdivision (f)(3), after “Vermont Statutes Annotated.” by inserting  
12 the following two sentences to read as follows:

13 At the request of the owner of a domestic pig that is outside of its enclosure,  
14 the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall assist the owner in  
15 capturing and confining the domestic pig. In providing assistance to the owner  
16 of a domestic pig under this subdivision, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food  
17 and Markets may request support or guidance from the U.S. Department of  
18 Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

19 And in subdivision (f)(4), in the second sentence, after the words “or  
20 destruction of” and before the period, by striking out the words “the feral

1 swine” and inserting in lieu thereof the words a feral swine as defined under  
2 subdivision (f)(1)(A) of this section

3 And in subdivision (f)(7), by striking the second sentence in the subdivision  
4 in its entirety

5 Second: By striking out Sec. 28 (Effective Dates) and its reader assistance  
6 heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 \* \* \* Vermont Housing and Conservation Board \* \* \*

8 Sec. 28. 10 V.S.A. § 321 is amended to read:

9 § 321. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

10 (a) The Board shall have all the powers necessary and convenient to carry  
11 out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this chapter, including those  
12 general powers provided to a business corporation by Title 11A and those  
13 general powers provided to a nonprofit corporation by Title 11B and including,  
14 without limitation of the general powers under Titles 11A and 11B, the power  
15 to:

16 (1) upon application from an eligible applicant in a form prescribed by  
17 the Board, provide funding in the form of grants or loans for eligible activities;

18 (2) enter into cooperative agreements with private organizations or  
19 individuals or with any agency or instrumentality of the United States or of this  
20 State to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

1           (3) issue rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 for the purpose of  
2 administering the provisions of this chapter; ~~and~~

3           (4) transfer funds to the Department of Housing and Community  
4 Development to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

5           (5) make and execute all legal documents necessary or convenient for  
6 the exercise of its powers and functions under this chapter, including legal  
7 documents that may be made and executed with the State or any of its agencies  
8 or instrumentalities, with the United States or any of its agencies or  
9 instrumentalities, or with private corporations or individuals;

10          (6) receive and accept grants, from any source, to be held, used, or  
11 applied or awarded to carry out the purposes of this chapter subject to the  
12 conditions upon which the grants, aid, or contributions may be made;

13          (7) make and publish rules and regulations respecting its housing  
14 programs and such other rules and regulations as are necessary to effectuate its  
15 corporate purposes; and

16          (8) do any and all things necessary or convenient to effectuate the  
17 purposes and provisions of this chapter and to carry out its purposes and  
18 exercise the powers given and granted in this chapter.

19          (b)(1) The Board shall seek out and fund nonprofit organizations and  
20 municipalities that can assist any region of the State that has high housing

1 prices, high unemployment, ~~and~~ or low per capita incomes in obtaining grants  
2 and loans under this chapter for perpetually affordable housing.

3 (2) The Board shall administer the “HOME” affordable housing  
4 program ~~which~~ that was enacted under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez  
5 National Affordable Housing Act (Title II, P.L. 101-625, 42 U.S.C. 12701-  
6 12839). The State of Vermont, as a participating jurisdiction designated by  
7 Department of Housing and Urban Development, shall enter into a written  
8 memorandum of understanding with the Board, as subrecipient, authorizing the  
9 use of HOME funds for eligible activities in accordance with applicable federal  
10 law and regulations. HOME funds shall be used to implement and effectuate  
11 the policies and purposes of this chapter related to affordable housing. The  
12 memorandum of understanding shall include performance measures and results  
13 that the Board will annually report on to the Vermont Department of Housing  
14 and Community Development.

15 (c) On behalf of the State of Vermont, the Board shall be the exclusive  
16 designated entity to seek and administer federal affordable housing funds  
17 available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development under the  
18 national Housing Trust Fund which was enacted under HR 3221, Division A,  
19 Title 1, Subtitle B, Section 1131 of the Housing and Economic Reform Act of  
20 2008 (P.L. 110-289) to increase perpetually affordable rental housing and  
21 home ownership for low and very low income families. The Board is also

1 authorized to receive and administer federal funds or enter into cooperative  
2 agreements for a shared appreciation and/or community land trust  
3 demonstration program that increases perpetually affordable homeownership  
4 options for lower income Vermonters and promotes such options both within  
5 and outside Vermont.

6 (d) On behalf of the State of Vermont, the Board shall seek and administer  
7 federal farmland protection and forestland conservation funds to facilitate the  
8 acquisition of interests in land to protect and preserve in perpetuity important  
9 farmland for future agricultural use and forestland for future forestry use. Such  
10 funds shall be used to implement and effectuate the policies and purposes of  
11 this chapter. In seeking federal farmland protection and forestland  
12 conservation funds under this subsection, the Board shall seek to maximize  
13 State participation in the federal Wetlands Reserve Program and ~~such~~ other  
14 programs as is appropriate to allow for increased or additional implementation  
15 of conservation practices on farmland and forestland protected or preserved  
16 under this chapter.

17 (e) The Board shall inform all grant applicants and recipients of funds  
18 derived from the annual capital appropriations and State bonding act of the  
19 following: “The Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund is funded by  
20 the taxpayers of the State of Vermont, at the direction of the General  
21 Assembly, through the annual Capital Appropriation and State Bonding Act.”

1 An appropriate placard shall, if feasible, be displayed at the location of the  
2 proposed grant activity.

3 Sec. 29. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 77, Sec. 12 is amended to read:

4 Sec. 12. REPEALS

5 ~~(a) 10 V.S.A. chapter 15, subchapter 4 (Rural Economic Development~~  
6 ~~Initiative) shall be repealed on July 1, 2021; and~~

7 ~~(b) 6 V.S.A. §4828(d) (phosphorus removal grant criteria) shall be repealed~~  
8 ~~on July 1, 2023.~~

9 \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

10 Sec. 30. EFFECTIVE DATES

11 (a) This section, Sec. 17 (local food), Sec. 24 (payment for ecosystem  
12 services and Soil Health Working Group), Sec. 25 (2020 hemp growing  
13 season), and Sec. 29 (repeal of REDI sunset) shall take effect on passage.

14 (b) The remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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18 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

19 \_\_\_\_\_

20 Senator \_\_\_\_\_

21 FOR THE COMMITTEE